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MONTANA ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT 1979

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RURAL MANPOWER SECTION
OF THE
MONTANA STATE JOB SERVICE

H.E. WALTERMIRE, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
FOR JOB SERVICES

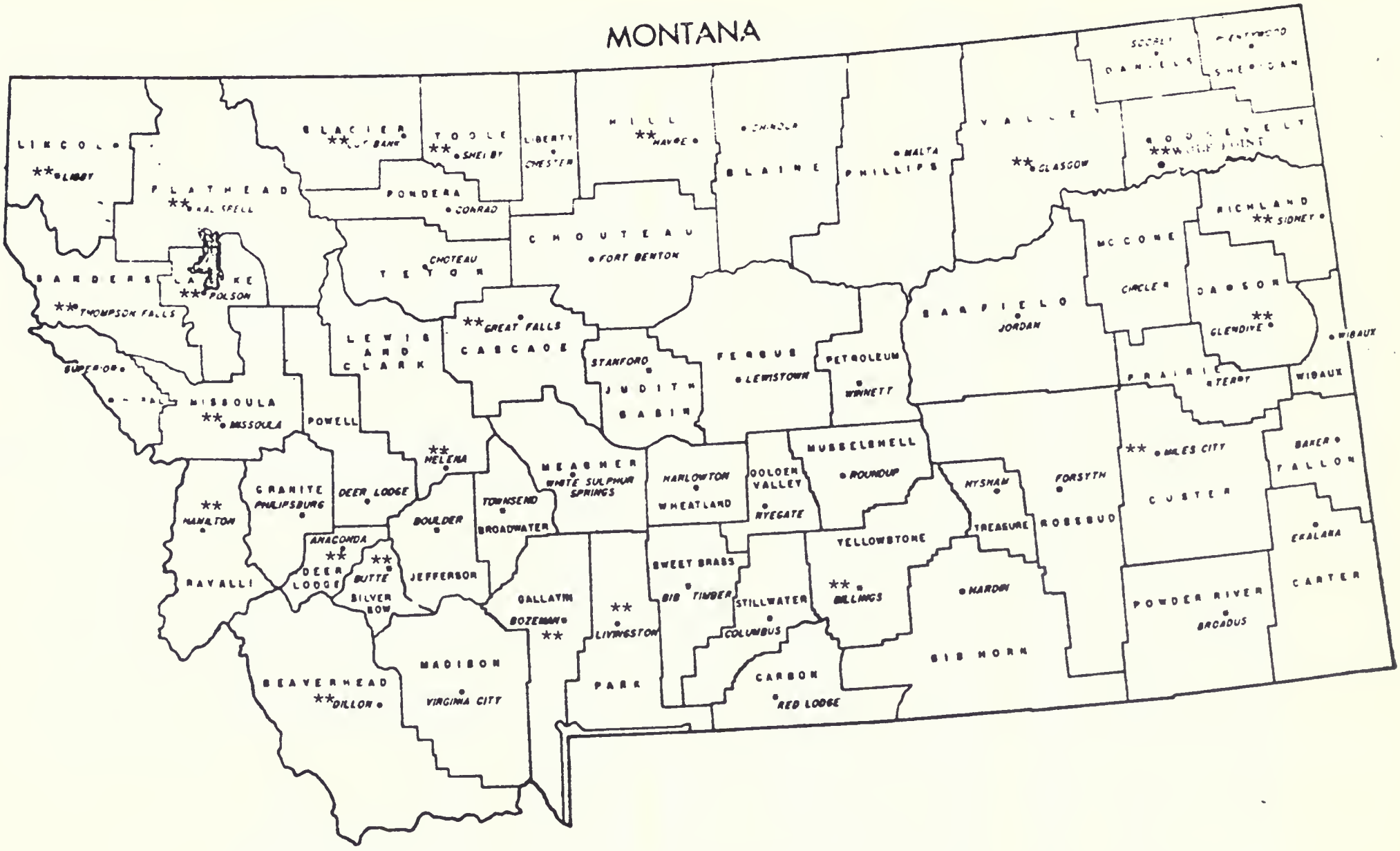
MONTANA STATE JOB SERVICE

SHERM HOOKLAND, SUPERVISOR OF RURAL MANPOWER

FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION

STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

MONTANA



**Cities Where Local Job Serive Offices are Located

MONTANA STATISTICS

Montana, the fourth largest state with 147,138 square miles, averages 550 miles wide and 275 miles from north to south. The eastern third is plains country, the central third is plains country with isolated mountain ranges, the western third is mountains and mountain valleys. The eastern two-thirds is primarily agricultural with significant petroleum, natural gas and coal production, while the eastern third contains most of the state's mining, logging, and lumbering industries. Located at the north and south boundaries are Glacier and Yellowstoen National Parks making the state an ideal attraction for tourists.

Agriculture ranks as the number one industry in Montana with cash receipts of $1.4 billion. Manufacturing (including lumbering) ranks next, followed by mining, oil and gas, and then travel.

Montana's population has increased by 90,600 to 785,000 for 1978. This gives us an annual growth rate of 1.6%. The largest county in the state is Yellowstone with a population of 104,000, followed by Cascade, Missoula, Flathead and Lewis and Clark. The civilian labor force has grown by 97,000 over the last eight years totaling 370,000. Total employment reached 348,000 in 1978.

Employment levels vary constantly according to ever-changing employer needs and the season. Being located in the northern reaches of the United States, the state experiences temperature variation of 120 or more degrees, ranging from lows of -30 degrees (and more) in the winter, to highs of 100 degrees (and more) in July and August.

Industries most affected by weather extremes are, of course, agriculture and construction, although significant changes in employment levels occur in the wholesale/retail trade, service and non-Ag other industry groups as well.

The state is served by a network of 24 local offices of the Montana State Job Service. A distance of 648 miles separates the Libby local office, located near the western border of the state and the Sidney local office, located near the eastern border of the state. The cities and addresses of the 24 Job Service offices are listed below.

Anaconda	307 E. Park	59711	Helena	715 Front Street	59601
Billings East	624 N. 24th Str.	59101	Kalispell	427 1st Ave. E	59901
Billings West	445 S. 24th Str. W.	59102	Lewistown	324 W. Broadway	59457
Bozeman	220 W. Lamme	59715	Libby	314 Calif. Ave	59923
Butte	206 W. Granite	59701	Livingston	228 S. Main	59047
Cut Bank	513 East Main Str.	59427	Miles City	12 N. 10th Str.	59301
Dillon	126 S. Montana	59725	Missoula	539 S. 3rd St. W.	59801
Glasgow	238 2nd Ave. S.	59230	Polson	417 Main Street	59860
Glendive	211 S. Kendrick	59330	Shelby	402 1st Str. S.	59474
Great Falls	1018 7th Str. S.	59405	Sidney	120 S. Central	59270
Hamilton	333 Main Str.	59840	Thompson Falls	608 Main Str.	59873
Havre	416 1st Str.	59501	Wolf Point	122 2nd Ave. S.	59201

FORWARD

1979

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION

RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

One of the objectives of the Montana Employment Security Division is to provide equality of services in all programs administered by the Division to rural area residents throughout Montana. This includes services to agriculture, business, government and workers, in meeting their employment and manpower needs.

This report is compiled to provide a summary of Rural Manpower Services accomplished during calendar year 1979, and to relate some of the plans for rural services in 1980.

On behalf of our Job Service offices and particularly the Rural Manpower staff, we express our sincere appreciation to county and city officials, social agencies, agricultural agencies and groups, law enforcement officials, the press, radio and television stations and in particular to the network of Volunteer Rural Manpower representatives for assisting our agency in extending Manpower services to rural areas.

MONTANA ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

MA 5-79

PART I

ANNUAL SUMMARY

ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING

A. During calendar year 1979, there were no major changes in the administrative organizational structure of the Employment Security Division or the Rural Manpower program. The supervisor of Rural Manpower Services provided functional supervision and program direction with at least one staff member in each local office. These staff members are assigned a combination of agriculture and non-agricultural contacts to conform with the present rural programs. Increased attention will be given to the rural areas during the 1980 calendar year. As in the past the agency continues to be a Division of the State Department of Labor and Industry.

B. State and local Rural Manpower personnel attended agricultural meetings incolving crop, livestock and row crop growers during the year to keep abreast of agricultural developments, determine labor requirements, and offer worker recruitment assistance.

   The local office Rural Manpower representatives were encouraged to meet with agricultural and related agencies and representatives such as, County Extension Agents, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization Committee, Farmers Home Administration and Rural Area Development Committees.

C. Statistical and on-site local office evaluations were made throughout the year to assure full emphasis was maintained toward equal services to the rural sector. Staff training was provided on a local and state level in services to migrants and seasonal farm workers, and other areas of Rural Manpower services by local office and State Administrative staff. The cooperation and efforts of the local office personnel became clearly evident as Montana maintained its high level of compliance with the Judge Richey Court order.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Energy related projects top the list of economic developments affecting Montana's rural nature during 1979. Coal, oil and gas extraction and other related industries grew substantially during the seventies. The prices of metals had an impact as they continued to climb. Other developments included the PCB problem, lumber mills closing, and a severe winter that curtailed outdoor activities during the first few months of 1979.

A. Impact of Rural Industrialization and Related Developments:

   1) Energy shortages and demands lead to most of the rural industrialization in Montana. Southeastern Montana is feeling most the impact of power plant construction and the strip mining of coal. Colstrip units 1 and 2 are operating. It is estimated that more coal came out of the ground this year than ever before. Colstrip 3 and 4 are expected to show some developments in the spring of 1980, after

a long delay.

2) Coal development has not proceeded without problems. The problems are varied and complicated as the growth of the area develops rapidly. Housing and service shortages are among the top of the list. Life has changed for many ranchers in the area whose land overlaps the coal seams. Water and air quality are other impacts created by the project.

3) The PCB contamination had an impact felt by many in 1979. A large loss of hogs and chickens hurt many. Approximately 5.8 million eggs had to be destroyed due to PCB. Market hogs were down 6% in 1979 and breeding hogs down 3%. Part of this reduction is attributed to the PCB contamination. Total wheat production at 116.5 million bushels was down 20%. Winter wheat fell 31%, partially due to "winter kill" in 1979. The fluctuation of various commodities in agriculture is also having an effect on the rural nature of Montana's economy. International and U.S. policies are involved in most all the comodity price situations.

4) A major plywood manufacturing plant closed its doors and left about 300 persons without work in Western Montana. This, and other plants, closed due to the slowdown in the housing market. This will be felt most in the coming years.

5) Subdivisions continue to sprout around the state. Land values are also attracting foreign investors. The land that is being purchased is formerly farm and ranch land, therefore, this is affecting Montana's agriculture. The number of farms is decreasing.

6) Unemployment rates for 1979 varied slightly from 1978. The civilian labor force also showed little change. As labor is being replaced by machinery, skilled jobs are opening to operate the machinery. Migrant activities continue to help with the harvest activities in the fruit, wheat, and sugar beet producing areas.

B. Impact of Agricultural Mechanization, Changing Production Techniques, and other Shifting Agricultural Trends

Mechanization remained stable in 1978, but resumed its normal trend during the 1979 calendar year. As the availability of reliable skilled workers and increased production costs continue to plague the producers of agricultural products, larger and faster equipment has become a necessity to increase efficiency. This trend has become more pronounced in the production of small grains on dry land and in harvesting of hay and feed products.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

A. Rural Non-Agricultural Trends

In the past some counties have had a history of sub-standard wages, which caused a shifting of applicants to urban areas. However, the movement of workers from rural to urban areas of the Highline and Eastern parts of Montana stabilized in 1979 and in some cases actually reversed itself, causing a growth in some rural communities. This was caused by the development of Bentonite strip mines and processing plants and increased activity in the development of natural resources such as oil, natural gas and coal. Manufacturing in rural areas remains insignificant.

B. Unemployment Trends

Unemployment moved downward during 1979 in the rural areas of the state, but also continued its seasonal patterns. These normal fluctuations are due to the effect of weather conditions on the main rural industries such as agriculture, timber harvesting, and recreation.

The civilian labor force and employment levels reached their peak in June in almost all rural areas, accompanied by low rates of unemployment. Due to the fact that migrants and seasonal workers make up a large portion of the peak agricultural employment, the unemployment rate does not rise when the harvest ends, but instead the labor force declines rapidly as the workers move on to other areas. For this reason, the rural counties of Eastern and Northern Montana show low annual average rates of unemployment.

In contrast the annual unemployment rates for some rural counties in Western Montana are exceedingly high. The individuals working in the timber and recreational industries do not migrate when they become unemployed but instead stay in the area and continue to seek jobs.

C. Farm Employment Trends

Overall farm employment was comparable to 1978, except during the sweet cherry harvest when the in-migration of harvest hands exceeded the previous year.

1) As to major characteristics of seasonal workers, all ages above 16 are employed. The elderly are utilized well in agriculture on general farm and ranch work. Age, sex and race play no important part in Montana's agricultural employment. Women workers have increased on both farms and ranches as tractor operators, general farm workers and sheepherders. They are also frequently employed as truck drivers during small grain and sugar beet harvests.

2) Major activities are field corn, cherries, grain, hay, livestock, potatoes and sugar beets. Less than 1,000 Texas-Mexicans in crews or family groups weed and thin Montana's sugar beets, which for the most part, are located in the Yellowstone Valley. Weedicides, mechanical thinners and weeders will continue to reduce hand labor needs each year. Only two of the previous five sugar beet companies now process sugar beets in the state, which has resulted in a very substantial reduction of sugar beet acreages and reduced the demand for migrant workers. One thousand, two hundred (1,200) cherry pickers take care of the cherry harvest. This is still hand picking except for the sour cherries which are harvested by mechanical shakers. The sweet cherry harvest in the Flathead Valley has become an important link in some of the migrant fruit workers itineraries who follow the fruit harvests in the states west of Montana.

   Wheat and other small grains are harvested mostly by custom combines and crews migrating into the state following the harvests from Texas to Canada. A substantial amount of the general farm and ranch work is taken care of by individuals entering the state each year for seasonal employment. Local students have become an important source of labor to fill vacancies during their summer vacation periods. In at least one local labor market area a cooperative effort between the

school, county agent and farm machinery dealers has resulted in a course to train students in the operation of farm equipment.

3) Shortages of farm/ranch hands exists from March to September each year. The in-migration of workers and the use of students during the summer months releaves the shortage to some extent, but does not satisfy all of the employers needs. Well qualified dependable workers experience little difficulty obtaining employment at any time during the year. Weather conditions, wages, and the lack of fringe benefits has been the cause for many workers to seek non-ag occupations. Many applicants are reluctant to accept jobs which will not afford them reasonable prospects for permanent year-round employment.

4) With increased mechanization farm families do much of the agricultural work which had previously necessitated hired hands. Consolidation of farms and ranches coupled with sub-dividing for non-agricultural purposes continues to have its effect on the number of farms and ranches located within the state.

Services for Rural People

A. Volunteer Rural Representatives have been established in rural communities throughout the state in an effort to provide all the services to rural applicants and employers that is being provided to urban applicants and employers. Due to a lack of budget we are unable to provide personnel and mobility to rural areas to the extent we would like.

All rural job seekers have access to counseling, testing, placement, referral to training and manpower programs. Supportive services or referral to agencies providing needed services and follow-up is administered at the local office sites. Outreach programs are operating periodically by personal contact, telephone, or letter through Rural Placement Representation in each local office.

(Figure provided in Part II)

B. Special services are provided to veterans, youth, the disadvantaged, Indians and older workers by specialists assigned to the above groups in each local office.

C. Our Minority Worker Specialists work with all seven Indian Reservations. Our all-Indian Job Corps Center has trained and is training numberous Indian trainees.

D. Outreach activities in all programs is the main emphasis in Montana. Itinerant services are used when helpful.

E. We continue to work closely with the Montana Migrant Council, Indian Training Programs, and the Monitor Advocate and his program.

F. The Rural Placement Representatives in the local offices make regular public relations visits to agencies, schools, ag and non-ag employers on job development as well as making promotional calls and sending out promotional letters. These include employers who have not used the agency.

G. Rural job information is disseminated to rural areas by a Farm and Rural Manpower Bulletin to each volunteer who posts such information in his

establishment. Each volunteer has free telephone service to the local office for access to any information and job service under the guidance of the local office. All local offices having access to radio or TV stations broadcast job opportunities periodically.

H. People planning to move out of rural counties have access to information in other areas by contacting their volunteer in the community or through their local office. Interviewers will supply rural persons with possible job opportunity information in other areas.

Rural Manpower Programs and Activities for Farm Workers

A. All Media of Advertising is used by local offices to disseminate job opportunity information to job seekers. Volunteer Rural Representatives act as information offices in this regard.

We have very little problem with displaced farm workers. We have no problem with cooperative efforts with public and private organizations in promoting farm workers' employability and to improve manpower services. The relationship is non-antagonistic in most instances. Volunteers are used in all feasible areas, however, due to the fact there is not remuneration, other than community service, all volunteers do not function as they should. We use posters at times, letters at times, bulletins, radio, TV, etc. for recruitment purposes. We could improve our services if we could get funds for additional personnel, travel, mobile units or itinerant services. If the small offices we once had in rural areas could be reactivated, it would be of assistance to those areas which are difficult to serve under the present circumstances.

B. Up until the last several years we participated in the annual worker plan but since we no longer recruit beet workers for the growers or sugar companies, the annual worker plan is not applicable to Montana. The growers do their own recruiting, thus avoiding the housing inspections we conducted prior to the change. Since our cherry growers do not have housing, no interstate recruitment is requested.

C. We received job openings through Interstate Clearance. We had two housing inspection and received two orders for three openings which extended to seven other states.

D. Since we do no recruiting of migrants most of this section is not applicable to Montana. We do offer all upgrading services to migrant workers that we do to others when they contact our local offices. Our Monitor Advocate checks out local office areas for complaints.

E. We had no farm management or foreman training programs during 1979, nor are any such training programs anticipated during 1980.

Rural Manpower Service Participation in Community Development Activities

The Montana Agency participates with farm and rural organizations and has good relationships with labor organizations, civic groups, and clubs. The media of news articles, radio and TV are used frequently. The local offices carry out a public relations program in their areas.

Evaluation, Problems, Plans and Recommendations

A. Evaluation

Part II contains a statistical report on results of past three years.

We feel the agency efforts have been successful with the limited budget with which we are working.

B. Problems

The main problem with rural manpower in Montana is distances. One can travel over 700 miles from corner to corner of the State and with only 780,000 people in the State, it takes money to serve the rural areas. Since budget is allowed on a population basis, we are limited in how much we can serve remote areas.

C. Plans

We plan to carry on very much the same in 1980 as we did in 1979. We feel our program is as full as we can get it under the financial situation.

D. Recommendations

We would recommend the rural manpower budget by allotted on an area basis as well as a population basis.

PART II

ATTACHMENTS TO REPORT

		NEW RURAL APPLICATIONS			TOTAL RURAL APPLICANTS PLACED			RURAL NON-AG PLACEMENTS		
		1979	1978	1977	1979	1978	1977	1979	1978	1977
1.	Anaconda	1535	2310	2220	719	996	744	700	956	708
*2.	Billings	1724	2580	2916	642	1594	1271	584	1509	1205
* 3.	Bozeman	1415	2041	1745	666	1140	952	614	1066	888
* 4.	Butte	423	482	529	137	229	140	116	205	118
5.	Cut Bank	1147	1529	1197	541	920	740	488	773	580
6.	Dillon	729	941	801	416	672	405	286	462	258
7.	Glasgow	942	1211	1402	538	1128	739	493	988	647
8.	Glendive	1434	1516	1234	855	1223	866	805	1189	816
*9.	Great Falls	1227	1689	1573	531	1052	632	433	824	464
10.	Hamilton	2080	2593	2078	1102	1516	892	1000	1348	765
*11.	Havre	767	1095	863	398	618	327	373	576	295
*12.	Helena	1086	1402	1385	396	903	656	376	835	598
*13.	Kalispell	4846	6109	6044	2929	4381	3468	2194	3454	2147
14.	Lewistown	1421	1672	1389	774	1285	771	648	1021	636
15.	Libby	1554	1746	2324	707	749	554	707	746	553
16.	Livingston	1510	1777	1485	777	1228	991	737	1153	920
17.	Miles City	1792	2065	1915	1072	1507	1097	948	1294	915
*18.	Missoula	1431	1797	1680	566	911	620	547	862	573
19.	Polson	1925	2319	2488	1156	2104	1771	964	1790	1392
20.	Shelby	874	1026	1006	514	1037	760	463	938	689
21.	Sidney	1356	1582	1368	787	1023	751	741	935	615
22.	Thompson Falls	754	886	1041	317	388	282	288	326	249
23.	Wolf Point	817	1081	928	360	581	304	325	543	293
24.	Billings West	1043	760	----	242	218	----	241	218	----
	TOTALS	33,832	42,243	39,611	17,142	27,429	19,733	15,071	24,037	16,324

* Local Offices located in designated Urban Areas.

	RURAL TESTING			RURAL JOB DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS			RURAL TRAINING ENROLLMENT		
	1979	1978	1977	1979	1978	1977	1979	1978	1977
1. Anaconda	64	210	211	416	727	370	13	39	88
*2. Billings	259	626	645	261	221	125	34	114	188
*3. Bozeman	137	320	255	101	109	140	7	12	24
*4. Butte	85	207	181	140	235	179	18	61	52
5. Cut Bank	76	171	45	208	284	296	32	61	53
6. Dillon	15	20	14	95	90	78	5	2	5
7. Glasgow	37	206	168	61	36	30	57	157	171
8. Glendive	132	220	137	80	60	115	15	21	58
*9. Great Falls	98	299	340	380	781	366	16	66	79
10. Hamilton	100	130	108	40	22	12	43	40	81
*11. Havre	94	246	161	52	101	145	6	12	26
*12. Helena	107	317	331	204	352	433	9	37	97
*13. Kalispell	430	813	940	595	998	1346	103	119	226
14. Lewistown	100	76	112	80	89	60	16	24	27
15. Libby	130	96	101	111	116	195	24	159	108
16. Livingston	81	150	111	99	102	3	9	16	29
17. Miles City	117	265	214	121	301	295	7	15	80
*18. Missoula	92	247	264	225	191	221	19	16	67
19. Polson	94	222	196	118	222	151	55	58	44
20. Shelby	94	115	84	98	176	123	10	23	40
21. Sidney	105	206	214	164	291	220	3	15	51
22. Thompson Falls	42	55	44	55	34	38	5	5	4
23. Wolf Point	26	65	36	53	55	34	25	42	41
24. Billings West	122	112	----	91	75	----	----	----	----
TOTALS	2,539	5,405	4,912	3,970	5,668	4,975	624	1,160	1,639

RURAL COUNSELING INTERVIEWS

		1979	1978	1977	1976	1975
1.	Anaconda	428	700	615	692	54
* 2.	Billings	311	1901	2241	2088	2605
* 3.	Bozeman	111	508	639	454	228
* 4.	Butte	153	1310	1569	1400	772
5.	Cut Bank	210	344	321	299	120
6.	Dillon	32	62	44	62	46
7.	Glasgow	130	281	406	255	226
8.	Glendive	139	256	247	198	201
* 9.	Great Falls	211	568	870	882	1081
10.	Hamilton	53	259	217	89	53
*11.	Havre	140	256	341	194	210
*12.	Helena	109	319	368	834	537
*13.	Kalispell	586	2190	3626	2846	2365
14.	Lewistown	168	481	389	214	350
15.	Libby	166	225	266	61	260
16.	Livingston	102	115	158	130	208
17.	Miles City	177	506	414	291	363
*18.	Missoula	346	945	1786	1372	1253
19.	Polson	234	449	529	339	305
20.	Shelby	178	190	194	198	89
21.	Sidney	57	364	471	318	348
22.	Thompson Falls	27	42	73	45	11
23.	Wolf Point	75	128	90	92	88
24.	Billings West	28	81	----	----	----
	TOTAL	4,171	12,634	15,874	13,353	11,773

	Rural Non-Ag Employer Visits		Rural Promotional Telephone Calls		Rural Non-White Ag & Non-Ag Placements	
	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978
Anaconda	1018	2021	623	1487	63	90
* Billings	2309	4131	117	334	131	350
* Bozeman	1290	1117	223	456	16	32
* Butte	3321	5273	61	722	7	18
Cut Bank	363	618	682	971	187	313
Dillon	111	359	0	191	17	34
Glasgow	546	589	172	235	73	127
Glendive	834	1044	252	1216	45	32
* Great Falls	5748	8047	595	5689	48	156
Hamilton	137	284	7	108	29	33
* Havre	1134	1165	41	1016	184	347
* Helena	2076	2384	173	2119	18	43
* Kalispell	2034	2112	305	1561	293	431
Lewistown	657	947	352	397	18	24
Libby	399	697	881	671	11	9
Livingston	535	619	193	173	20	29
Miles City	441	754	362	544	32	64
* Missoula	1948	3324	245	1235	39	86
Polson	579	772	259	447	270	598
Shelby	841	753	602	571	36	66
Sidney	344	652	174	248	49	85
Thompson Falls	125	179	105	111	6	11
Wolf Point	392	661	41	127	187	296
Billings West	850	1694	371	259	10	8
TOTALS	28,032	40,196	6,836	20,888	1,789	3,282

FARM AND RANCH VISIT

		1979	1978	1977	1976	1975
1.	Anaconda	14	36	23	40	3
* 2.	Billings	72	5	90	44	148
* 3.	Bozeman	140	50	301	304	187
* 4.	Butte	87	141	197	346	354
5.	Cut Bank	63	60	90	141	124
6.	Dillon	36	21	34	92	63
7.	Glasgow	53	49	75	59	73
8.	Glendive	1	25	62	107	89
* 9.	Great Falls	287	769	1018	877	811
10.	Hamilton	15	0	44	5	2
*11.	Havre	48	125	58	32	60
*12.	Helena	223	101	14	26	6
*13.	Kalispell	196	257	357	446	200
14.	Lewistown	115	169	107	154	244
15.	Libby	7	17	1	19	7
16.	Livingston	72	239	231	142	326
17.	Miles City	122	205	210	147	124
*18.	Missoula	219	192	336	302	255
19.	Polson	105	48	81	75	64
20.	Shelby	32	101	148	85	19
21.	Sidney	3	18	40	64	70
22.	Thompson Falls	4	2	2	1	5
23.	Wolf Point	10	12	10	2	7
	TOTAL	1,924	2,642	3,529	3,510	3,241

TOTAL FARM AND RANCH PLACEMENTS

		1979	1978	1977	1976	1975
1.	Anaconda	34	69	45	33	7
* 2.	Billings	553	497	452	453	820
* 3.	Bozeman	280	200	231	228	248
* 4.	Butte	119	114	116	207	245
5.	Cut Bank	151	212	182	116	125
6.	Dillon	206	249	208	236	316
7.	Glasgow	92	156	114	99	121
8.	Glendive	97	38	52	62	71
* 9.	Great Falls	927	980	1004	1110	1175
10.	Hamilton	193	191	143	91	112
*11.	Havre	140	146	152	142	235
*12.	Helena	203	283	341	280	239
*13.	Kalispell	1462	1068	1962	1433	823
14.	Lewistown	276	300	171	174	244
15.	Libby	19	3	1	10	8
16.	Livingston	95	102	99	74	222
17.	Miles City	236	231	297	226	221
*18.	Missoula	247	298	283	255	351
19.	Polson	409	331	473	432	262
20.	Shelby	104	146	87	201	86
21.	Sidney	69	97	152	211	99
22.	Thompson Falls	60	65	33	13	46
23.	Wolf Point	73	51	16	37	53
	TOTAL	6,045	5,842	6,614	6,123	6,132

5249 Form MA 5-79C. Annual Rural Manpower Report -- Interstate Seasonal Agricultural Clearance Activities

A. Facsimile of the form

MES OMAS-211

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR • Manpower Administration

ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT
INTERSTATE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

STATE: MONTANA
CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED: 1979

ITEM	ORDERS		OPENINGS	
	EXTENDED (Section A) RECEIVED (Section B)	FILLED	EXTENDED (Section A) RECEIVED (Section B)	FILLED
I	II	III	IV	V
SECTION A. REPORTING STATE AS ORDER-HOLDING STATE				
1. Reporting State, TOTAL →	7	0	3	0
2. Applicant-holding States involved:				
Ranch Hand Sheep 413.887 Arizona Utah, N & S. Dakota Wyoming, Colorado and Idaho	7	0	3	0
SECTION B. REPORTING STATE AS APPLICANT-HOLDING STATE				
3. Reporting State, TOTAL →	5	0	312	0
4. Order-holding States involved:				
Wyoming	1	0	1	0
Colorado	3	0	212	0
Idaho	1	0	100	0

SECTION C. COMMENTS (Use reverse if needed)

SIGNATURE: H. E. Waltermire

TITLE: Deputy Administrator for Employment Services

Replaces ES-225 Table 3 which is obsolete

MA 5-79C
Oct. 1973

5248 Form MA 5-79B. Annual Rural Manpower Report -- Composition of Interstate Farm Migrant Groups

A. Facsimile of the form

RCS-OMAS-219

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR • Manpower Administration

ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

COMPOSITION OF INTERSTATE FARM MIGRANT GROUPS

STATE: MONTANA

CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED: 1979

SECTION A. MIGRANT GROUP CONTACTS			SECTION B. REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS		SECTION C. GROUPS WORKING IN REPORTING STATE	
TYPE	BY REPORTING STATE	WITH REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS	TYPE	NUMBER	TYPE	NUMBER
I	II	III	I	II	I	II
1. Total			2. Total persons		4. Families	
a. Crew leaders			3. Total workers		5. Unattached males	
b. Family heads					6. Unattached females	
c. Other						

SECTION D. COMMENTS

NOT APPLICABLE TO MONTANA

SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Administrator for Employment Services

Replaces ES-225 Table 2 which is obsolete.

MA 5-79B Oct. 1973

5241 Form MA 5-79A Worksheet. Day-Haul Activities at Points Operated by State Agency

A. Facsimile of the worksheet

NCS-OMAS-209

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR • Manpower Administration

DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCY

STATE: MONTANA

CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED: 1979

TOWN	DAY-HAUL POINTS		
	NUMBER	DAYS OPERATED DURING YEAR	WORKERS TRANSPORTED DURING YEAR
I	II	III	IV
NOT APPLICABLE TO MONTANA			

SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Administrator for Employment Services

Replaces ES-225 Worksheet A which is obsolete

MA 5-79A Worksheet
Oct. 1973

5240 Form MA 5-79A. Annual Rural Manpower Report -- Selected Data on Farm Placement Operations

A. Facsimile of the form

RCS-OMAS-209

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR • Manpower Administration

ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

SELECTED DATA ON FARM PLACEMENT OPERATIONS

STATE: MONTANA

CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED: 1979

ITEM	NUMBER
SECTION A. DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCY	
1. Towns with day-haul points	None
2. Number of day-haul points	None
3. Sum of days day-haul points operated during year	None
4. Total number of workers transported during year	None
SECTION B. SELECTED SERVICES TO SCHOOL-AGE WORKERS (under 22 years)	
5. Supervised camps operated for school-age farm workers	None
a. Placements in camps	None
6. Placements of school-age workers in supervised live-in farm homes	None
SECTION C. SERVICES TO INDIANS LIVING ON RESERVATIONS	
7. Rendered by on-reservation local offices or at itinerant points	
a. Farm placements	191
b. Applicant-holding acceptances	0
8. Other farm placements of reservation Indians	303
SECTION D. OTHER SELECTED DATA	
9. Number of local offices which held farm clinics	
10. Sum of days on which farm clinics were held	
11. Total number of local offices participating in formal community service programs	
12. Peak number of volunteer farm placement representatives	123

SIGNATURE: H. E. Waltermire

TITLE: Deputy Administrator for Employment Services

Replaces ES-226 Table 1 which is obsolete

MA 5-79A Oct. 1973

JOB SERVICE
State of Montana
Dept. of Labor & Industry
Employment
Security
Division
P.O. Box 1728 • Helena, Montana 59601
Phone: (406) 449-2511

12 North Tenth Street
Miles City, Montana 59301

Mr. J. Michael Doris
KIKC Radio Station
Forsyth, Montana 59327

Dear Mr. Doris:

Eastern Montana is currently experiencing a shortage of qualified farm and ranch hands. Employers in the agriculture field have placed some 40 orders for experienced help in recent weeks with the Miles City, Glendive and Sidney Job Service offices.

We are requesting your assistance in contacting interested job seekers in your coverage area. We would appreciate as much Public Service time as possible in conveying this information to your listening audience. The following are two 30 second spots which could be used.

"Your local Job Service office is seeking experienced farm and ranch workers. They have openings for both single workers and married couples in Eastern Montana. For more information contact your nearest Job Service office, or call 232-1316 in Miles City, 365-3314 in Glendive, or 482-1204 in Sidney. A Public Service message of this station."

"If you are an experienced farm or ranch worker and seeking employment, contact your nearest Montana Job Service Office. They have openings for both married and single hands. Most jobs require references. Contact Job Service today. In Miles City call 232-1316, Glendive 365-3314, and in Sidney 482-1204. A Public Service message of this station."

Thank you for your assistance in our efforts to contact these needed workers.

Sincerely,

Mike Metzenberg, Manager
Miles City Local Office

MM:lp

cc: Glendive Local Office
Sidney Local Office

JOB SERVICE
State of Montana
Dept. of Labor & Industry
Employment
Security
Division
P.O. Box 1728 • Helena, Montana 59601
Phone: (406) 449-2511

1018 Seventh Street South
Great Falls, Montana

Dear Sir:

Once again the season is rapidly approaching where the needs for additional help will be necessary for calving and caring for stock. In addition to calving and feeding stock, there are always numerous tasks to be completed before spring arrives.

We have several well-qualified farm and ranch hands and farm couples available for immediate referrals. We also have some single men interested in caretaking jobs for the winter.

If you are interested in hiring extra help now or in the future please contact Dale DeVault, Ross Floyd, or Mike Shoquist at your Job Service Office of the Montana State Employment Service located at 1018 7th Street South, or phone 761-1730.

Sincerely,

Bill Cady Sr.

Bill Cady, Manager

DD/jg

JOB SERVICE
State of Montana
Dept. of Labor & Industry
Employment
Security
Division

1018 Seventh Street South
Great Falls, Montana

Dear Sir:

Another crop season is rapidly approaching and soon the demands for seasonal workers will be very high. Now is the time to make plans for hiring additional help to complete your spring activities.

We have local and migrant workers available to operate four-wheel drives and crawler tractors for summer fallowing and seeding. We also have ranch hands available to build fence and care for livestock.

Your Great Falls Job Service Center has the largest concentration of farm workers in this area. This year don't spend your valuable time looking for farm or ranch hands. Place your order now by contacting Dale DeVault, Ross Floyd or Mike Shoquist at your Job Service Center located at 1018 7th Street South or phone 761-1730.

Sincerely,

Bill Cady

Bill Cady, Manager

DD/jg

MONTANA FARM-RURAL EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

JOB SERVICE
State of Montana
Dept. of Labor & Industry
Employment Security Division
P.O. Box 1728 • Helena, Montana 59601
Area Code: 406

No. 7	This bulletin summarizes crop conditions and labor information and does not represent actual Job Orders. Crop conditions change rapidly and information can become obsolete within hours. CONTACT THE NEAREST LOCAL OFFICE BEFORE LEAVING AREA	5-15-79

WESTERN

ANACONDA: Agricultural labor market remains steady with 2 open job orders for irrigators & general ranch hands. More hiring anticipated when/if weather improves. Ph. 563-3444

BUTTE: Field work in lower elevations is increasing & livestock feeding & ranch maintenance in higher elevations. Short 4 singles & 2 couples, must be qual. $350-$500 B&R Ph. 792-0417.

DILLON: Field work is in full operation, some farmers are running 24 hour operation to catch up because of poor weather. Have need for experienced farm equipment operators $400-$450 R&B, commuter openings $20-$25/day. Experienced farm equipment mechanic $800/mo House & utilities, 5 ranch hands to brush meadows, flood irrigate, $400-$550 R&B, 2 ranch hand openings $600 with house & utilities. Anticipate shortage of experienced flood irrigators & sprinkler pipe movers. Ph. 683-5501

HAMILTON: Farmers & ranchers in the area continued to ready their fields & ditches for water. The weather remained cool & cloudy during the week. Irrigating has started with the current supply meeting demand.

HELENA: Improvement of weather should open up tractor jobs. Biggest shortage to day is for flood irrigators. Ranch cooks, nurses and L.P.N.'s are in demand. Ph. 449-3044

KALISPELL: X-mas tree planting progressing well. Spring wheat & hay planting well underway. Farm labor supply meeting demand. Rural job openings include several openings for diesel engine mechanics & a farm equipment mechanic. Ph. 755-5071

MISSOULA: Short 3 ranch workers. The pay rate is $350-$400 p/m + R&B. Several openings are available in the rural area for cooks & waitresses. Ph. 728-7060

POLSON: Some sorting of seed potatoes continues as well as planting of Christmas tree seedlings on a new tree plantation. Local labor supply has been adequate. Spring field work is about to begin. Openings for general farm hands, $3.00 p/h, no housing. Non-ag openings are mainly in the service areas. Waitresses, cooks, etc. Need experienced marine mechanic, $5.00 p/h. Sawmill head sawyer on right hand rig, $8.50 p/h. Ph. 883-5261

NORTH CENTRAL

CUT BANK: Snow delayed field work, but will resume in 2-3 days. This area is still short tractor operators, although immediate placement is dependant on current weather. Ph. 873-2191

GLASGOW: Rain, area this week still holding back field work. Need for qualified farm workers at $450-$700 p/m. Non-ag openings include Auto Body Repairer. Ph. 228-9369.

GREAT FALLS: Field work should be in full swing in a few days if the weather stays fairly dry. Main activities are fencing & general farm & ranch work. Short about 15 farm & ranch hands @ $400-$700 p/m + R&B, or house & utilities. 1 dairy opening @$800 p/m to commute. Non-ag opening for 1 auto mechanic. Ph. 761-1730

HAVRE: Weather is still holding up field work. Some seeding to replace winter wheat has gotten underway. There is still a shortage of qualified ranch hands. Construction work & exploratory drilling have also been held up due to the weather. Ph. 265-4366.

SHELBY: Shortage of workers for openings with housing suitable for couples. Restaurant workers continue to be in demand. Construction trades are beginning to solicit help in this tri-county area. Some demand for local delivery truck driver. Ph. 434-5161

WOLF POINT: Rain & snow delayed all field work this week. Calving is about 85% complete. Shortage of good qualified farm workers @ $700-$900 p/m + R&B or housing. Non-ag openings include office machine servicer. Ph. 653-1720

SOUTH CENTRAL

LLINGS: Most of the beets are in. Small grain and corn is still being planted. Farmworkers ırdin area $550 p/m + house. Tractor drivers, $30/day & R&B, Farm/Ranch Hand, $800 & house, ırm machine set-up, Hardin $600p/m, auto mechanic, Red Lodge, Roundup, and Hardin $825/mo & up, esel mechanic, Hardin $11.43/hr., driller, Laurel $6/hr, truck driver, Hysham $4/hr, log :idder, Ashland $.50 per log. Ph. 248-7371

)ZEMAN: Primary activity is spring seeding. Several openings for farm & ranch workers,)me with housing suitable for couples. Desperately need 2 farm equipment & shop mechanics. ıral opening exists for radio dispatcher, $3.00 p/h. Ph. 586-5455.

:WISTOWN: Calving, feeding, fencing, & tractor operation for seeding are our main activities)w. Short 22 ranch & farm workers. Wages range from $400-$700 p/m + benefits. Also need (perienced skidder operator, $.50 per stick. Ph. 538-3286

:VINGSTON: Warm weather has increased demand for ag workers. Short three ranch workers - eneral ranch work & irrigating - $600-$650 + R&B. Also short experienced flood irrigators, 500 P/M + R&B Some have housing suitable for couples. Ph. 222-0520

EASTERN

_ENDIVE: Field work increasing with moderate weather. Winter wheat in fair condition. easonal & permanent farm/ranch hands needed. Salaries from $400-$600/mo. plus benefits. ccounting clerk/secretary, Circle - $2.90/hr.; Secretary-Pine Unit - $700-$800/mo. il Field Gauger - Bell Creek, $5.75-$5.90/hr. Ph. 365-3314

IDNEY: Some soil preparation & grain & sugar beet seeding is underway. Short experienced arm & ranch hands with references. Pay generally runs $600 per month + housing. Rural penings: farm equipment mechanic, meat cutter & laborers. Ph. 482-1204

IILES CITY: Calving is completed. Other activities are plowing & seeding spring grains, encing, and general farm & ranch activities. Demand for qualified farm & ranch hands still xists. Salaries range from $400-$600 p/m plus extras. Rural openings: Nurse, $5.50 p/h nd L.P.N., $4.37 p/h in Broadus. Butcher $4.50 p/h in Forsyth. Ph. 232-1316

MONTANA STATE
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
P. O. BOX 1728

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MONTANA FARM-RURAL EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

JOB SERVICE
State of Montana
Dept. of Labor & Industry
Employment Security Division
P.O. Box 1728 • Helena, Montana 59601
Area Code: 406

No. 19	This bulletin summarizes crop conditions and labor information and does not represent actual Job Orders. Crop conditions change rapidly and information can become obsolete within hours. CONTACT THE NEAREST LOCAL OFFICE BEFORE LEAVING AREA	8-7-79

WESTERN

ANACONDA: Job openings available for 2 experienced flood irrigators. Main activities are haying and irrigating. Ph. 792-0417

BUTTE: The wild hay harvest has begun in the Big Hole Valley. Pay ranges from $12.00 - $20.00 p/d + R&B. Current supply is meeting demand. Experienced flood irrigators are in short supply but we have no unfilled openings at present. Ph. 792-0417

DILLON: Haying & Irrigating are main activities. Have openings for 4 hay hands, 2 ranch cooks and 1 sheepherder. Second cutting of alfalfa scheduled to start in one week. Ph. 683-5

HELENA: First and only cutting of wild hay nearly complete. Alfalfa under irrigation and second cutting will begin if weather remains hot. Short one sheepherder. Ph. 449-3044

KALISPELL: The Flathead Cherry Harvest is now completed. Limited activities involving haying grain harvests, and potato roguing. Labor supply exceeds demand. Demand for rural workers in all occupations quite soft in this part of Montana. Ph. 755-5071

HAMILTON: Main agricultural activites for the week were haying, irrigating and picking cherri 2nd cutting of hay is underway and the weather has been excellent for it. Cherry harvest has started but the Bitterrot Cannery will not open until next week so some growers are waiting until then to start the harvest. The labor supply in the area is meeting the demand for worke Ph. 363-1822.

MISSOULA: Haying held up by rain during early part of the week. Weather normal for the past five days. We have an opening for a good experienced hand with one or more years experience. Salary $500 p/m plus housing. Ph. 728-7060

POLSON: The annual sweet cherry harvest was completed with packing & shipping ending 8/3/79. The quality of fruit shipped was reported as excellent. Haying & irrigating continue with adequate help available. No permanent ag jobs available at this time. Non-ag job openings for LPN, RN, food & drink waitresses, cooks and bartenders. Ph. 883-5261

NORTH CENTRAL

CUT BANK: Several orders for tractor operators were received this week, but operations are still very slow due to hot, dry weather. Supply meeting demand at present time. Ph. 873-2191

GLASGOW: Harvest in general will start in about ten days. Some early cutting of winter wheat Yields below average. Short combine operators and truck drivers, $700-$900 p/m B7R. Ph. 228-9369

GREAT FALLS: Main activities are grain harvest, summer fallowing, haying, and irrigation. Supply of workers adequate at this time for the harvest. Short 1 general ranch hand, 2 ranch mechanics, and 2 farm workers with family housing. Non-ag opening for 1 auto mechanic. Ph. 761-1730

HAVRE: Harvesting has started in most areas with the rest planning to start in the next few days. Good supply of combine operators & truck drivers available. Ph. 265-4366

SHELBY: Initial harvest activity began this week. Most job orders for harvest hands readily filled from existing supply. Still needed are two truck drivers and one combine operator. Two have housing available, the other has no housing. Ph. 434-5161

WOLF POINT: Some summer fallow activity. Most haying activity completed. Preperation for harvest is underway but that is several weeks away, except for winter wheat to the south. Adequate labor supply to fill most needs. Ph. 653-1720

SOUTH CENTRAL

BILLINGS: Grain harvesting is gaining momentum in the Billings area. Combining should be in full swing next week. Area farm/ranch and rural openings are as follows: Mill Operator, Laurel, $800 p/m; Livestock Yard Attendant, Billings, $3.00 p/h + bonus; Irrigator, Rosebud, $650 p/m + beef; Milker, South of Billings, $800 p/m, Landscape Supervisor, Fromberg, $4.00 p/h; Tractor-Trailer Driver, Ballantine, 14¢ p/mile; LPN, Red Lodge, $3.85 p/h; RN, Red Lodge, $5.85 P/h, Parts Clerk, Red Lodge, $3.25 p/h. Ph. 248-7371

BOZEMAN: Main activities are irrigating & harvest prep. At least 2 farmers have begun harvesting in Harrison area. Be in full swing in 2 weeks. Short: 2 irrigators, 1 bale wagon operator, 1 stacker operator, 2 combine operators, 3 ranch cooks.

LEWISTOWN: Combining has begun in the Winifred and Winnett areas. We have 10 openings for experienced ranch hands. Three of these have housing suitable for couples. Wages range from $400-$800 p/m, depending on experience. Ph. 538-8701

LIVINGSTON: Haying & irrigating are main activities with very little hiring at this time. No shortages at this time. Ph. 222-0520

EASTERN

GLENDIVE: Harvesting is in full swing in most areas, as is haying. Short one experienced combine operator/truck driver in Circle area. $40.00 p/d plus B&R. Needed data technician and stock clerk in Circle & Wibaux. Ph. 365-3314.

MILES CITY: The main farming activiites at this time include haying, summer fallowing, irrigation and wheat harvesting. There has been only one call for harvest help, and that was for two custom combines. The supply of workers have been meeting most of the demands. Rural openings include: Nurse, Broadus, $5.98 p/h; cook, Broadus, $3.75 p/h; meat cutter, Colstrip, $6.00 p/h; Cook, Baker, $4.00 p/h; butcher, Forsyth, $4.50 p/h. Ph. 232-1316

SIDNEY: Summer fallowing, haying and irrigation are the main activities. Winter wheat harvest under way with some custom cutter activities. Some oats and wheat are being swathed. Labor supply meeting demand. Ph. 482-1204

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

February 1980

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601

Volume 10 Number 2

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

If additional information is desired,
contact: Bob Rafferty, Supervisor
Research & Analysis Section
Employment Security Division
P. O. BOX 1728
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 449-2430

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

* STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS *

Montana's January civilian labor force of 349,000 was 15,300 less than the civilian labor force for December, 1979. There was very little change from one year ago, with a civilian labor force of 348,000 for January, 1979. The total number of persons with jobs fell by 22,600 from December, 1979 to January, 1980, giving an employment count of 322,700. In January, 1979 the number of employed persons was 320,800. The unemployment total for Montana shot up from 19,000 in December, 1979 to 26,300, an increase of 7,300 in one month. This compares to 28,000 unemployed persons in January, 1979. Montana's unemployment rate reflected the same movement as it rose from 5.2% in December, 1979 up to 7.5% in January, 1980. Two months earlier, the unemployment rate was recorded at 8.0%.

Montana's economy remained relatively stable during February. The greatest number of claims filed in the local offices continue to be from the lumber and construction industries. We still see some layoffs in the lumber industry. In Thompson Falls, a lumber company eliminated its 16 person maintenance department for six weeks. This layoff was an effort to prevent closing the mill entirely. Other mills around the state have resumed production. Mills in Townsend and Dillon have started up again. At the same time, one-third of the work force at a Trout Creek mill are back on the job. There is no indication as to when this mill will return to full production. No new major construction projects are noted for this reporting period.

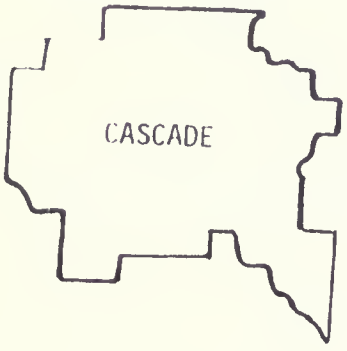
Labor disputes continue at three state colleges. Electricians, pipefitters, and laborers are still off the job at Eastern Montana College, Montana State University, and University of Montana. Approximately 240 workers continue to be idled by this labor dispute. There are also about 550 workers idled as labor disputes continue at oil companies around the state. A mobil home construction company in Belgrade has stopped production due to a labor dispute as of February 5th. This dispute idled 135 workers.

The federal government has approved a two million dollar loan guarantee to help backers of a proposed gasohol plant in Glasgow. The facility would convert grain to ethyl alcohol, which is mixed with gasoline to produce a substitute motor fuel. It is estimated the plant will employ 10 full-time people. Oilfield activity in Montana includes a $3 million drilling project in the Big Hole area near Dillon. Thirty workers with a national corporation will spend an estimated 150 days drilling for oil. In the East Glacier area, drilling is growing fast. New rigs will be moving into the area as weather permits. A natural gas pipeline is being tied into the main line from Kalispell.

If the inflation rate continues at last month's rate, our annual inflation rate would be calculated at 17%. Montana's Composite Index, an aggragate of six leading economic indicators, dropped to 97.8 based on 100 for 1972. The composite index hasn't been this low since April, 1979, with an index of 97.1. New businesses for January totaled 602 compared to 534 for January, 1979.

Employment activity in Montana has shown little change in February. Employment is expected to pick up as warmer weather moves into Montana and allows outdoor work to resume.

GREAT FALLS SMSA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	32.6	33.1	33.5	-0.5	-0.9
Employment	29.9	31.2	30.4	-1.3	-0.5
Unemployment	2.7	1.9	3.1	0.8	-0.4
Unemployment Rate	*8.2*	*5.6*	*9.3*	*2.6*	*-1.1*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

City-County officials approved a 120 acre subdivision in west Great Falls. The subdivision is planned to include mostly industrial development and possibly some commercial or professional buildings. Most of the improvement cost for the area will be absorbed by the developers.

The Planning Board approved plans for a shopping center to be located between 43rd and 47th Streets on Tenth Avenue South. The facilities have been expanded to a total of 150,000 square feet, with the addition of a catalog based discount store.

Construction and remodeling of the national headquarters for a national leasing firm is almost complete. The 42,000 square foot downtown building involved $1.5 million in renovation development. Other construction work has been continuing on enclosed facilities. Outside work has been limited to those few warmer days. An extremely cold week can cause temporary layoff of up to 150 construction workers.

Malmstrom Air Force Base has been named as one of the two alternate sites for a space control center. The principal location near Colorado Springs seems to have run into environmental clearance and land acquisition problems; thus alternate sites are being reviewed. When fully operational, the facility would provide 300 military jobs, 1,000 air force civilian jobs and positions for 1,400 contractor personnel.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cont.)

A recent survey of Great Falls businessmen indicated that they viewed the economic outlook for Great Falls with optimism, but figures from Montana's Economic Outlook Seminar give a more modest view of the local economy. Since 1970, the overall economic growth in Great Falls does not match that recorded in the major population centers of Montana-Billings, Missoula and Helena. Pointed out as a cause for the slower economic growth in Great Falls was the slow growth in export trade. The optimism comes from more recent activities in the SMSA such as the following; downtown revitalization, shopping center expansion, beef and gasohol plants being established. Also, enthusiasm stems from the proposed railroad grain car manufacturing, possible site for major coal-fired electric power plant, and economic development council established to deal with the recent reduction in staff at the Malmstrom Air Force Base.

BILLINGS SMSA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	55.6	56.2	53.2	-.6	2.4
Employment	52.5	54.1	50.0	-1.6	2.5
Unemployment	3.1	2.1	3.2	1	-.1
Unemployment Rate	*5.5*	*3.7*	*6.1*	*2.8*	*-.6*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Billings SMSA has remained relatively stable during this reporting period. No new major construction projects were reported. Fifty percent of the claims filed continue to come from the construction industry. A labor dispute continues between Eastern Montana College and an electrician, carpenter, and plumber's union. Another labor dispute at a refinery in Laurel has been settled. With this settlement, there will be forty people returning to work. Labor disputes continue at two other refineries in Billings.

A Billings florist has opened a branch store and will be employing two more people. A delicatessen has also opened. It was formerly a taco store by the same owner. Two storage companies have purchased a warehouse for the storage of household and commercial goods-as well as cold storage. It is anticipated that the warehouse will employ four full-time people. A costume jewelry store at a shopping mall in Billings has closed leaving three persons without work.

New businesses and corporations totaled 80 for January, 1980 in the Billings SMSA. This compares to a total of 99 for January, 1979. Ten-to-fifteen percent of the claims taken in the local offices have been coming from the retail industry. A lumber company in the Heights is changing their operation from primary wholesale to primary retail, due to the changing trend in building. This will result in hiring of at least nine part-time sales clerks. Employment activity has been slow due to the snow.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	31.0	33.4	33.0	-2.4	-2.0
Employment	28.8	31.6	30.2	-2.8	-1.4
Unemployment	2.2	1.8	2.8	.4	-.6
Unemployment Rate	*7.0*	*5.4*	*8.4*	*1.6*	*-1.4*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Recent layoffs and the possibility of future layoffs highlight economic activity this period. In Butte and Anaconda, activity at Job Service offices was especially heavy due to increased filing of unemployment claims by mine workers and employees of a department store. Up to 102 employees of the Butte school district may lose their jobs if a proposed budget is passed. Twenty-five workers lost their jobs this period when a Butte automobile dealer went out of business. In Dillon, 72 workers returned to work after a stud mill shut down for three weeks.

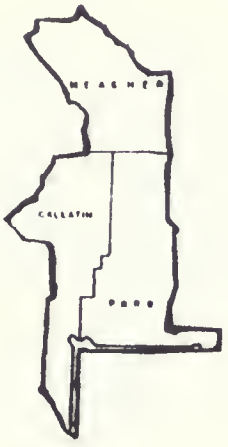
Three million dollars is being spent in the Big Hole area near Dillon by a national corporation drilling for oil. The around-the-clock operation will last for 150 days and go to approximately 15,000 feet. Thirty men are working on the rig. Some local workers are involved, but the majority of the crew is traveling with the rig.

The controversy surrounding development of a shopping center in Dillon continued this period. The Beaverhead County Planning Board refused to consider a proposal for a center on a 50-acre site north of Dillon. However, development of another site south of Dillon appears more likely at this time, since the property was annexed early in the period.

The number of building permits issued in Butte for January, 1980 was up to 14, compared to 9 in January, 1979. The value, though, was down from $2.2 million to $448,000. A $1.5 million apartment complex for moderate income families is nearing completion in Butte. Most construction in the area is at a standstill because of the cold weather. Several highway projects should be getting underway by April.

Activity in retail, wholesale, and service sectors was stable throughout the period, with occasional layoffs being made because of a drop in business after the Christmas season. Agriculture activity was stable, with little hiring being done despite snow and cold and also calving.

BOZEMAN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	25.0	26.2	25.6	-1.2	-0.6
Employment	23.2	24.9	23.8	-1.7	-0.6
Unemployment	1.8	1.3	1.8	0.5	0
Unemployment Rate	*7.2*	*5.1*	*7.1*	*2.1*	*0.1*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In Livingston, a committee has been selected to study options for a new community center building. Their goal will be to determine if city and county residents need, want, and can afford a new community center that can cost between $2 and $2.5 million. A final report will be completed by late April for the Park Committee.

School additions in the Livingston area are expanding. Construction of a 12,500 square foot industrial arts addition to the high school has begun, with several construction oriented firms donating services to the project. In Paradise Valley, an 8,000 square foot addition is scheduled for the Arrowhead grade school.

Construction work continues on schedule for the May opening of the 330,000 square foot shopping center, Another 125,000 square foot shopping center, with a planned July completion date, is currently limited in development by weather conditions. This second mall will include a supermarket, drug store, a home improvement center and about twenty other small shops.

The developer of the proposed agricultural business center requested $3 million in industrial revenue bonds from the Gallatin County Commissioners. A public hearing will be held in March for the bond issue. Belgrade has approved a zone change that would allow the agricultural center to be built near Belgrade.

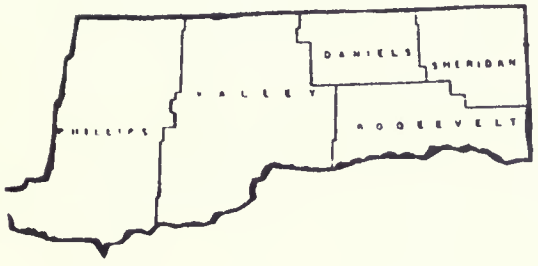
The Federal Communications Committee has taken the first step toward approving a television station in Bozeman. Final okay will not come before the end of 1980; thus, early 1981 would be the earliest possible broadcast date.

The trade and service industries were given a boost from the week-long Montana Winter Fair held at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. Attendance was strong, as indicated by the heavy occupance of area lodging facilities.

BOZEMAN LMA (cont.)

A labor dispute between a mobile home manufacturer and about 140 laborers started February 5, 1980. Issues involved deal with the contract settlement of wages and working conditions. The labor dispute on the MSU campus involving the plumbers electricians, and laborers continues, with many of those personnel honoring the labor dispute now eligible for unemployment compensation. The college has also started to recruit permanent replacement employees.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

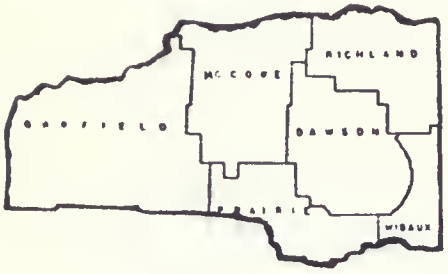
	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	16.0	16.9	15.3	- .9	.7
Employment	15.1	16.3	14.4	-1.2	.7
Unemployment	.9	.6	.9	.3	-
Unemployment Rate	*5.7*	*3.3*	*5.8*	*2.4*	*-.1*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Activity in the LMA was generally slow through the period, with few positive developments to report. Most construction is shut down at this time, and county road crews have laid off workers. Lack of snow and good weather has made cattle feeding easy and few workers have been demanded. Retail business was slow, but there were few layoffs as a result. Hours have been cut at an area packing plant due to less cattle being purchased and 18 layoffs were made at a manufacturing plant for 30 days. There is still talk of a Glasgow training facility relocating out of the area.

Even with the closing last period of a mining company, employment in mining and minerals remained high. However, there have been indications the plant may not reopen. A grass seed mat manufacturer began production this period with four 10 hour shifts and eventually hopes to employ 50 workers.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	13.4	14.4	13.4	-1.0	--
Employment	12.9	13.9	12.8	-1.0	.1
Unemployment	.5	.5	.6	--	-.1
Unemployment Rate	*3.9*	*3.2*	*4.4*	*.7*	*-.5*

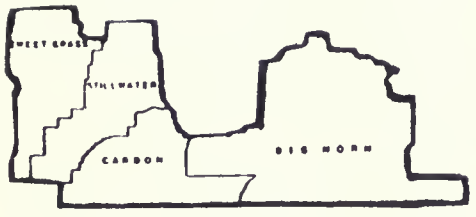
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction in the LMA continued throughout the period. Contractors were able to keep working on indoor projects, a 12-plex housing unit, a new motel, and a new mini-mall in Sidney. There were some layoffs early in the period in oilfield site construction, but activity grew later on. Oil exploration continued as well, with some demand for seismic laborers.

In agriculture, the sugar campaign is done and slicing operations are now complete. The majority of employees at the plant have now been laid off. Other agriculture activity consists mostly of livestock feeding.

Activity in the retail and wholesale sector ranged from good to quite slow. Two new businesses opened informally in the new mini-mall in Sidney, which will house 19 units. In Glendive, a new discount store will open soon. Business was good in service industries, especially those associated with oilfield activity.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	11.7	12.2	11.6	-0.5	0.1
Employment	10.9	11.6	10.8	-0.7	0.1
Unemployment	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.2	0
Unemployment Rate	*7.1*	*4.6*	*6.9*	*2.5*	*0.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Development toward future coal mining activity highlights economic expansion in the LMA. Negotiations are progressing for the leasing of Crow Tribal land by a major oil company. An initial $5 million bonus is payable to the Crow Tribe upon settlement of the agreement with the Crow Tribal Council and when the lease gets conditional approval from the Secretary of the Interior.

In the Decker area, plans were announced to start operations on a new coal mine by November, 1980. The dragline construction will take 75,000 man-hours for completion and is now one-third completed.

Employment has expanded in an underground coal mine in the Red Lodge area. A desire for the coal mining occupations can be seen from the vast number of applicants-250 people applied for the six positions. Also, the coal company is in the process of expanding their conveyor system to 3,000 square feet to increase production and mining depth.

The Crow Tribal Council hopes to establish a school district within the reservation. Initial action will involve a pre-enrollment survey. One area which will receive emphasis from the proposed school district will be vocational education.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	12.2	13.0	12.0	-.8	.2
Employment	11.3	12.3	11.1	-1.0	.2
Unemployment	.9	.7	.9	.2	--
Unemployment Rate	*7.6*	*5.3*	*7.3*	*2.3*	*.3*

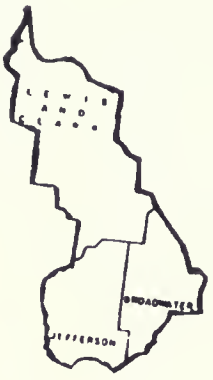
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Highlighting economic activity in the LMA this period is the possibility the Havre Air Force Station may be used as a gasahol production plant and feedlot for cattle. In the next few months local officials will be looking into the idea, however, there is nothing certain about the project at this time.

Layoffs in construction trades created a significant portion of unemployment insurance claims filed this period. Most outside work was shut down this period due to cold weather. Construction in the LMA should continue to remain very slow until spring. One project which may begin later this year is an $800,000 county library, which was announced this period.

There was little activity through the period in agriculture. Calving has not started yet and the lack of snow has made cattle feeding relatively easy. In wholesale, retail and service occupations, activity was mixed with layoffs being made at some firms and hiring occurring at other businesses.

HELENA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	26.5	27.5	27.4	-1.0	-.9
Employment	24.6	26.1	25.3	-1.5	-.7
Unemployment	1.9	1.4	2.1	.5	-.2
Unemployment Rate	*7.0*	*5.0*	*7.6*	*2.0*	*-.6*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Two developers proposing shopping centers in the Helena area received zoning board approval for their respective projects this period. This is in addition to a third developer who has already received approval for another mall. The pace of bureaucratic decisions required for eventual construction of any one mall seems to have quickened in recent months. However, exact dates for when construction might begin are still uncertain.

Over $10 million in gold will be strip mined in the Boulder area over the next seven years. Seventy-five acres will be stripped by 8-to-12 workers, with an annual payroll of about $150,000. Conflicts with a proposed holding reservoir on the Little Boulder Dam must still be resolved before work can begin.

A Townsend lumber mill, which shut down before Christmas, announced it would reopen February 18. A remodeling project was due to be finished by then and approximately 70 workers will be able to return to work. Several other mills across the state have begun operations, also, after being shut down over the holiday season.

Activity in agriculture was mixed this period depending on the weather. Extreme cold required extensive feeding of cattle, but spurts of warm weather lessened the demand for feeding. Weather also affected construction projects, with some outdoor projects continuing for short periods of time. Union representatives are not overly optimistic for a good summer this year in construction.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	38.0	39.2	36.8	-1.2	1.2
Employment	33.8	36.2	32.6	-2.4	1.2
Unemployment	4.2	3.0	4.2	1.2	--
Unemployment Rate	*11*	*7.7*	*11.3*	*3.3*	*-.3*

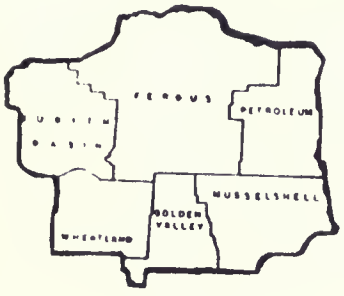
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Kalispell LMA still reports heavy layoffs in lumber mills and logging operations. Continued layoffs are expected due to spring breakup. The lumber market remains soft, which influences the economy of the entire LMA. The manufacturing industry has reflected mixed trends. The new beehive manufacturing plant in Polson is slowly adding to its payrolls, with several new hires each week. At the same time, a wood stove manufacturer anticipates laying off about a dozen workers, due to a lack of orders and an adequate inventory. This layoff is supposed to last only several weeks. In the Kalispell area, an aluminum company notified the local office that they will lay 90 workers off within the next few weeks. This is another situation that will hinder the economy. There will be an added burden as these workers hit the job market.

Construction remains at a standstill as winter weather continues. Projects for 1980 are in the planning stages. Activity should gradually pick up in the construction industry as the weather warms up. All the service industries are fairly steady. This is due, in part, to the adequate snowfall in local ski areas.

The retail industry remains quiet, with some openings in the waitress and cook fields. A new drive-in will be opening soon in Polson, with 3 or 4 persons going to work. This LMA has 86 new businesses and corporations during January, compared with 56 for January, 1979. The Flathead County alone had 60 new businesses and corporations in January, while at the same time last year there were 43, some positive factors for the the Kalispell LMA. Agricultural activity continues to be quite slow. Activity consists of supplemental feeding and calving or preparation for calving.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	10.0	10.4	9.7	-0.4	0.3
Employment	9.3	10.1	9.1	-0.8	0.2
Unemployment	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.1
Unemployment Rate	*6.7*	*3.3*	*6.6*	*3.4*	*0.1*

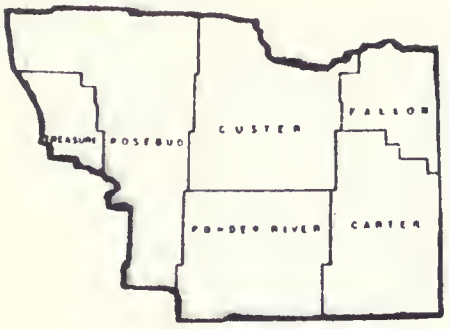
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Bid results on the Lewistown city complex were released and the total was within the city's bonding capacity of $850,000. The complex will provide facilities for the fire department, police department, and ambulance service-in addition to housing the city's offices.

A Lewistown based electric cooperative announced plans to have a $790,000 warehouse facility developed. The 18,000 square foot structure will have many energy saving features, and bids may be released by May if plans are approved for the REA low-interest loan. Also, the staff will be expanded by seven personnel that will be mostly linemen.

Roy is considering a new sewer system to go along with their now half-completed water system. The sewer project cost, including federal funds available, would be about $470 thousand.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	13.6	14.6	13.8	-1.0	-0.2
Employment	12.8	14.0	12.9	-1.2	-0.1
Unemployment	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.2	-0.1
Unemployment Rate	*5.9*	*4.0*	*6.8*	*1.9*	*-0.9*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

January's building permit requests in Miles City were typical for this time of year- small indoor remodeling projects. One new residence request for January compares to 5 new residence requests one year ago. The only project released for construction was the new trucking chutes and arena for the fairgrounds, with an April completion date scheduled.

A new, nationally affiliated supermarket opened up for business in early February. Close to 20 employees were added to the staff through the local Job Service office.

In Colstrip, concrete work has been limited to large pours of concrete which usually last one or two days a week. Because most concrete workers live in Billings, there has been some difficulty in getting union personnel to accept one day jobs.

Weather shutdowns on major projects in the LMA are occurring. Thus, construction layoffs have risen rapidly. Some projects are working on a day by day basis.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	48.1	50.8	47.9	-2.7	.2
Employment	43.5	47.3	43.1	-3.8	.4
Unemployment	4.6	3.5	4.8	1.1	-.2
Unemployment Rate	*9.5*	*6.9*	*10.0*	*2.6*	*-.5*

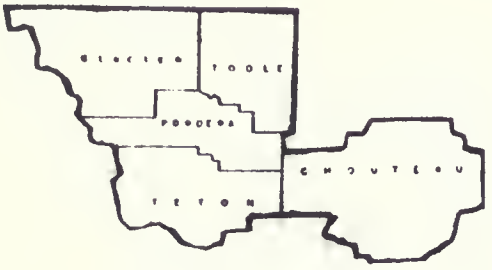
Econmmic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Missoula LMA reports that most economic activity remained relatively steady during February. One-third of the work force has returned to work at the mill in Trout Creek. There is no indication as to when the mill will resume their stud mill operations. Logging activities remain in a lull in Missoula, with 110 workers still laid off from Missoula firms. A lumber company in Thompson Falls has eliminated its 16 person maintenance department for six weeks. This move is an effort to prevent closing the mill entirely, which would result in the layoff of 120 persons. A modular home building company has started the production of some homes for boom town consumption.

The construction industry reflected little change with some construction projects starting back up as warmer weather moved into the area. In the retail sector, a men's store in downtown Missoula is reportedly going out of business after 30 years. Most retail and service industries are stable, with some layoffs as the ski season draws near an end.

The labor dispute at the University of Montana with the electricians, laborers, and plumbers, continues with no apparent settlement in sight. The people honoring the picket line have been determined elegible to receive unemployment compensation, on the grounds that no work stoppage has occurred. For the most part, employment activity in all major industry sectors has been stable-with an optimistic view toward the coming months as the colder weather begins to break.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	15.6	16.6	15.6	-1.0	--
Employment	14.3	15.7	14.3	-1.4	--
Unemployment	1.3	.9	1.3	.4	--
Unemployment Rate	*8.2*	*5.3*	*8.6*	*2.9*	*-.4*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic activity in the Shelby-Cut Bank LMA is highlighted by oilfield and refinery activity. The refinery in Cut Bank may be looking at closure. The company is having troubles staying competitive with the larger companies. Problems stem from the expensive price of crude oil. The labor dispute at the refinery continues, with no settlement in sight. The company has informed the union that the present labor dispute has no bearing on the possible closure of the refinery.

Oilfield activity in the East Glacier area is also some top economic news for this LMA. With new wells in the area, they will be running natural gas pipeline across Highway #2 and into the main line from Kalispell.

Retail trade has been comparable to last year, but is down somewhat this month. There has been some demand for salesclerks and restaurant help and also, some calls for office clerks and laborers. In the transportation industry there have been openings for truckdrivers and material handlers. Employment levels should start picking up as the warmer weather moves into the area.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

January 1980

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	247	85	2459
CETA-CEP	74	52	290
CETA-OJT	87	12	312
JOB CORPS	45	21	480
PSE TITLE II	7	18	367
PSE TITLE VI	18	16	199
PSE TITLE VI-A	3	21	146
CETA-AWE	118	38	242
STIP I	0	0	0
HIRE II	0	1	1
YETP/OJT	1	17	17
STIP II	0	0	1
PSE II DAB	--	--	--
YETP/INST	0	0	9

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S. [1/]

(1967 = 100)

All Items

Series	Jan. 1980	*Percent Change From:* Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
CPI-U	*233.2*	*1.4*	*13.9*
CPI-W	*233.3*	*1.4*	*14.0*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

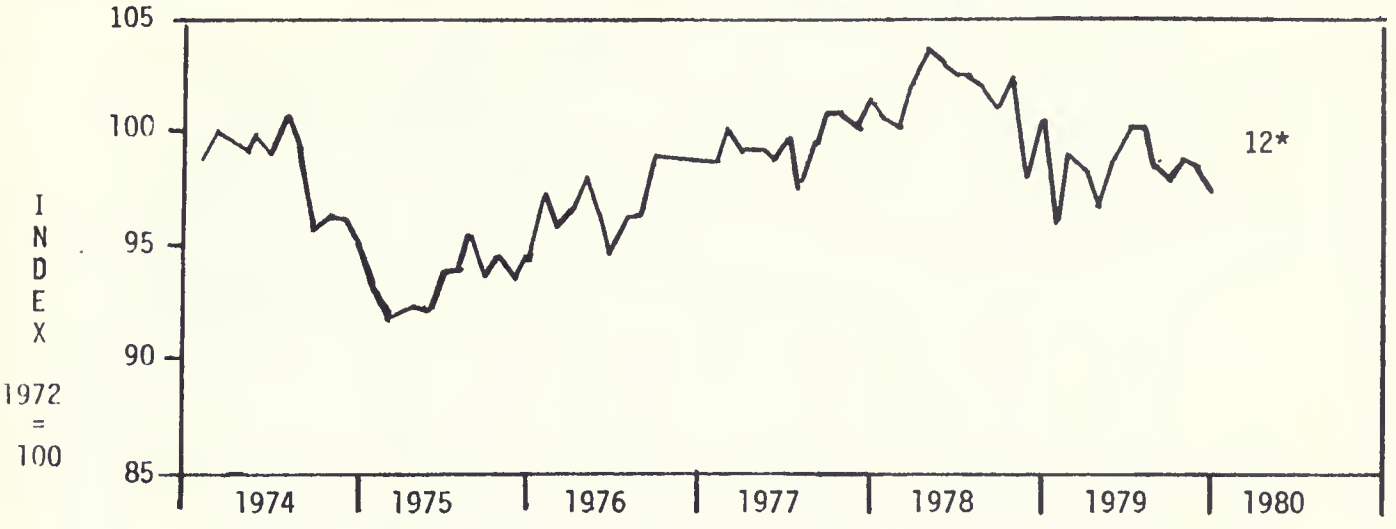
January 1980

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Insured Unemployment*
Non-White	*14.2%*
Female	*18.2%*
Youth	*10.1%*
Over 45	*18.5%*

[1/] The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices of goods and services in major expenditure groups. The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) covers about 40 percent of the total noninstitutional population. The CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) covers about 80 percent of the total noninstitutional population, including wage earners and clerical workers, salaried workers, the self-employed, retirees, and the unemployed.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Composite Index of
SIX LEADING INDICATORS

1978	
January	100.6
Feburary	*100.2*
March	102.2
April	102.8
May	103.1
June	*102.8*
July	*102.6*
August	*102.0*
September	*101.6*
October	102.6
November	*98.1*
December	100.6
1979	
January	*96.1*
February	98.6
March	*98.2*
April	*96.4*
May	98.5
June	100.4
July	*100.3*
August	*98.9*
September	*98.4*
October	99.2
November	*98.5*
December	*97.8*

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

December was the second consecutive month of downward movement in the Composite Index. December's 97.8 is the lowest index since April's 96.4. In comparing the 1979 figures with 1978's numbers, this past year has been experiencing a slowdown in the Montana economy.

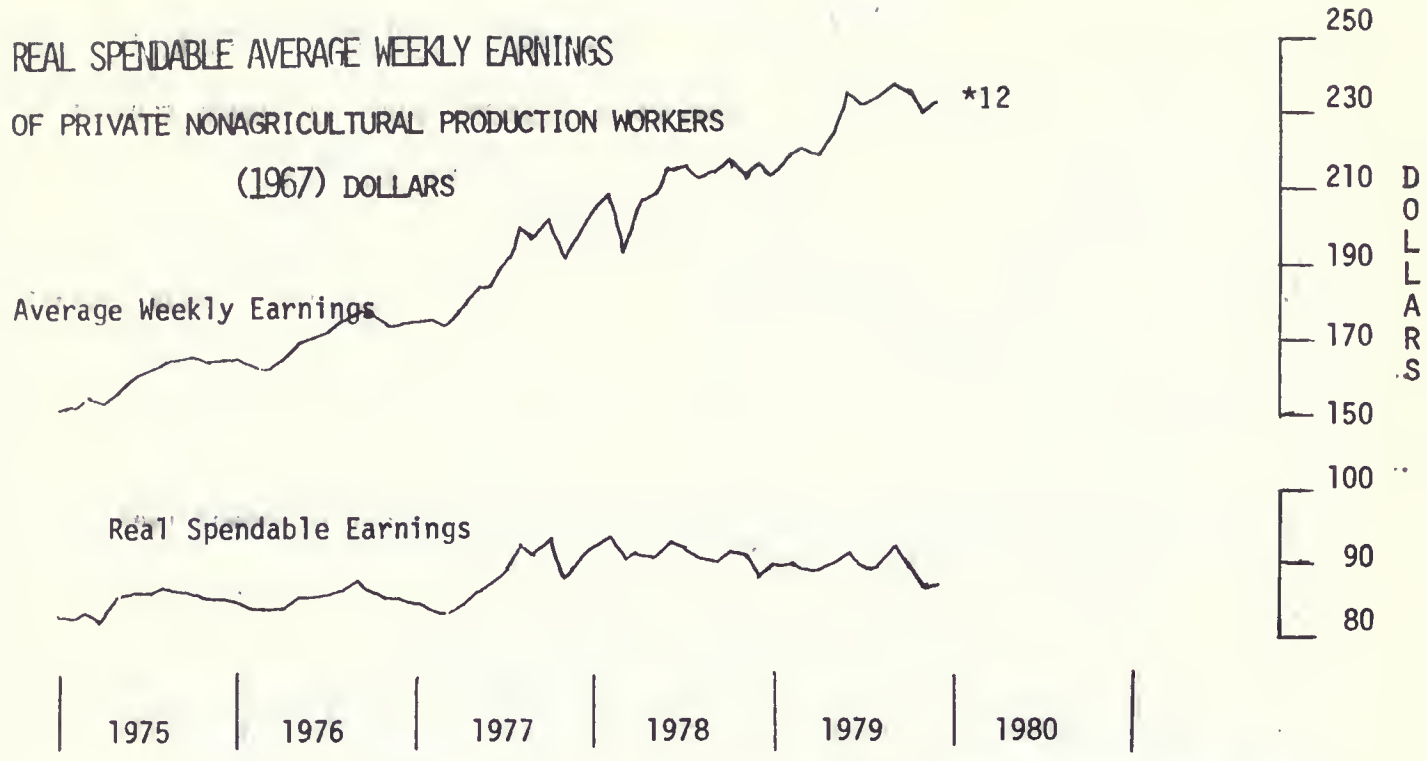
Four of the six components of the Composite Index had negative movement in December. These included Average Weekly Initial Claims, Manufacturing Accession Rate, Manufacturing Employment and Building Permits. The positive activity came in Manufacturing, Layoff Rate and Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours.

Figures dating from April, 1978 have been revised to reflect the latest changes from benchmarking adjustments.

Components of Composite Index

Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits; and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.*
** *Figures in italics indicate declines from previous month.*



	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	233.24	230.62	217.56
3/ Taxes Withheld	33.39	33.16	35.21
Spendable Earnings	199.85	197.46	182.35
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	112.97	110.71	92.48
Real Spendable Earnings	86.88	86.75	89.87

	1) Average Weekly Earnings	2) Real Spendable Earnings
1978		
July	217.49	92.67
Aug.	214.68	91.19
Sep.	215.27	90.81
Oct.	218.40	91.15
Nov.	213.49	88.87
Dec.	217.56	89.87
1979		
Jan.	215.42	89.79
Feb.	219.57	90.19
Mar.	221.43	89.85
Apr.	220.68	88.70
May	225.42	89.08
June	236.99	91.75
July	233.87	89.83
Aug.	234.99	89.13
Sep.	238.74	92.42
Oct.	236.90	89.46
Nov.	230.62	86.75
Dec.	233.24	86.88

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

December's gross average weekly earnings improved by $2.62 from the previous month and by $15.68 from one year prior. The December level of gross earnings is still lower than the summer month's gross earnings.

Real spendable weekly earnings improved a few cents from November to December. However, the nearly three dollar loss between this December's figure and the calculation for last December indicates that the Consumer Price Index is rising faster than wages are.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.*
1/ Average Weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers
2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.
3/ Taxes computed on family with four exemptions.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table XII

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2/]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1/] Montana	Percent[1/] U. S.	
1978								
January	358.4	335.5	302.1	33.4	22.9	6.4	6.3	*
February	360.0	337.4	303.8	33.6	22.6	6.3	6.1	*
March	364.2	340.1	306.6	33.5	24.1	6.6	6.2	*
April	366.1	344.3	312.0	32.3	21.8	6.0	6.1	*
May	367.7	346.1	313.0	33.1	21.6	5.9	6.1	.1
June	368.9	346.6	313.5	33.1	22.3	6.0	5.8	.4
July	372.2	349.9	316.8	33.1	22.3	6.0	6.1	.2
August	371.9	349.8	316.9	32.9	22.1	5.9	5.9	.1
September	372.6	351.0	318.3	32.7	21.6	5.8	5.9	.1
October	370.7	350.5	317.9	32.6	20.2	5.4	5.8	.1
November	371.8	350.4	317.8	32.6	21.4	5.8	5.8	*
December	371.5	350.3	317.6	32.7	21.2	5.7	5.9	*
Avg.	368.0	346.0	313.0	33.0	22.0	6.0	6.0	.1
1979								
January	370.3	346.8	314.1	32.7	23.5	6.4	5.8	*
February	368.4	347.5	314.8	32.7	20.9	5.7	5.7	1.8
March	366.8	347.3	314.7	32.6	19.5	5.3	5.7	*
April	367.9	347.6	315.2	32.4	20.3	5.5	5.8	*
May	370.5	351.1	318.9	32.2	19.4	5.2	5.8	*
June	371.5	352.9	320.8	32.1	18.6	5.0	5.7	*
July	368.7	350.0	318.1	31.9	18.7	5.1	5.7	*
August	368.0	350.7	318.9	31.8	17.3	4.7	5.9	*
September	369.9	352.8	320.9	31.9	17.1	4.6	5.8	*
October	372.2	354.9	322.9	32.0	17.3	4.7	5.9	*
November	372.5	355.4	323.4	32.0	17.1	4.6	5.8	*
December	373.5	355.1	323.0	32.1	18.4	4.9	5.9	*
Avg.	370.0	351.0	318.8	32.2	19.0	5.1	5.8	.2
1980								
January	370.4	348.6	316.5	32.1	21.8	5.9	6.2	*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970. Revised to 1979 Benchmarks. Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1978								
January	33.3	30.9	29.6	1.3	2.4	7.2	6.4	*
February	34.2	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.6	7.5	6.3	*
March	34.0	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.4	7.1	6.6	*
April	34.3	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.1	6.3	6.0	*
May	34.5	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.3	6.6	5.9	*
June	34.7	32.3	31.0	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.0	*
July	34.2	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.3	6.8	6.0	*
August	34.7	32.3	31.0	1.3	2.4	6.9	5.9	*
September	34.7	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.5	7.1	5.8	*
October	34.3	32.1	30.8	1.3	2.2	6.4	5.4	*
November	34.2	31.7	30.4	1.3	2.5	7.4	5.8	*
December	34.6	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.6	7.5	5.7	*
Avg.	34.3	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.4	7.0	6.0	*
1979								
January	34.6	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.7	7.8	6.4	*
February	34.7	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.5	7.2	5.7	*
March	34.2	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.2	6.5	5.3	*
April	34.3	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.3	6.7	5.5	*
May	34.2	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.2	6.4	5.2	*
June	34.3	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.0	*
July	34.2	32.1	30.8	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.1	*
August	33.8	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.0	5.9	4.7	*
September	33.7	31.8	20.5	1.3	1.9	5.5	4.6	*
October	33.5	31.7	30.4	1.3	1.8	5.3	4.7	*
November	33.5	31.7	30.4	1.3	1.8	5.4	4.6	*
December	33.4	31.6	30.3	1.3	1.8	5.5	4.9	
Avg.	34.0	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.1	*
1980								
January	33.6	31.4	30.1	1.3	2.2	6.7	5.9	*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1978								
January	52.0	49.4	47.9	1.5	2.6	5.1	6.4	*
February	52.3	49.7	48.2	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.3	*
March	53.1	50.1	48.6	1.5	3.0	5.6	6.6	*
April	52.8	50.4	48.9	1.5	2.4	4.6	6.0	*
May	53.3	50.8	49.3	1.5	2.5	4.7	5.9	*
June	53.6	51.1	49.6	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.0	*
July	53.3	50.9	49.4	1.5	2.4	4.6	6.0	*
August	54.0	51.5	50.0	1.5	2.5	4.6	5.9	*
September	54.4	52.0	50.5	1.5	2.4	4.5	5.8	*
October	54.0	51.9	50.4	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.4	*
November	54.4	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.7	4.9	5.8	*
December	54.2	51.8	50.3	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.7	*
Avg.	53.4	50.9	49.4	1.5	2.5	4.7	6.0	*
1979								
January	54.8	52.2	50.7	1.5	2.6	4.8	6.4	*
February	54.7	52.4	50.9	1.5	2.3	4.2	5.7	*
March	54.5	52.4	50.9	1.5	2.1	3.9	5.3	*
April	55.0	52.9	51.4	1.5	2.1	3.9	5.5	*
May	55.3	53.2	51.7	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.2	*
June	55.2	53.3	51.8	1.5	1.9	3.4	5.0	*
July	55.9	53.9	52.4	1.5	2.0	3.5	5.1	*
August	55.8	53.9	52.4	1.5	1.9	3.3	4.7	*
September	55.5	53.7	52.2	1.5	1.8	3.3	4.6	*
October	55.5	53.7	52.2	1.5	1.8	3.2	4.7	*
November	55.9	54.0	52.5	1.5	1.9	3.5	4.6	*
December	55.8	53.9	52.4	1.5	1.9	3.4	4.9	*
Avg.	55.3	53.3	51.8	1.5	2.0	3.7	5.1	*
1980								
January	57.2	54.7	53.2	1.5	2.5	4.3	5.9	*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970. Revised to 1979 Benchmarks. Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

January 1980

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
TOTAL PRIVATE	227.33	233.24	215.42	35.8	37.2	6.35	6.35	6.27	6.12
MANUFACTURING	386.32	389.40	346.48	44.0	44.3	42.1	8.78	8.79	8.23
Durable Goods	405.41	419.52	350.70	44.6	45.6	42.0	9.09	9.20	8.35
Primary Metal Industries	445.20	442.88	375.20	42.0	41.9	40.0	10.60	10.57	9.38
Nondurable Goods	347.15	336.38	336.71	42.7	42.1	42.3	8.13	7.99	7.96
Food and Kindred Products	284.74	267.62	259.78	44.7	43.8	41.9	6.37	6.11	6.20
MINING	445.99	448.88	459.58	46.7	47.4	49.1	9.55	9.47	9.36
Metal Mining	433.26	457.46	455.70	36.5	39.2	43.4	11.87	11.67	10.50
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	364.54	353.86	335.34	35.6	35.6	33.4	10.24	9.94	10.04
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	321.99	324.36	326.01	40.4	40.8	40.7	7.97	7.95	8.01
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	339.11	346.18	315.66	43.7	44.9	43.3	7.76	7.71	7.29
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	169.78	185.60	159.71	32.4	35.9	31.5	5.24	5.17	5.07
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	157.78	156.37	151.44	33.5	33.2	35.3	4.71	4.71	4.29
SERVICES	147.65	147.22	139.78	34.1	34.0	33.6	4.33	4.33	4.16

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

December 1979

	ACCESSION RATES									SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Recalls			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
MANUFACTURING	1.9	2.0	1.6	0.8	1.6	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.8	5.8	1.8	0.8	1.6	0.9	1.5	3.1	0.3
Durable Goods	0.6	1.0	1.4	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.2	3.3	6.0	1.5	0.2	0.4	0.8	2.3	4.1	0.3
Primary Metal Industries	0.7	1.1	2.4	0.0	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.4	5.8	3.9	1.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	2.0	2.1	*
NonDurable Goods	4.2	4.0	2.3	2.2	3.7	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.3	2.0	5.5	2.5	1.7	3.6	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.4
MINING	6.6	12.9	2.2	6.0	11.8	1.8	0.6	1.1	0.0	12.4	8.2	5.0	0.2	7.4	2.6	0.0	0.4	1.3
Metal Mining	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggrigate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year. Foreign corporation classification has been added and are considered established corporations from other states registered to do business in Montana. County tabulation is not possible, only industry structure is known.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Jan. 1980	Jan 1979	Year to Date 1980	Year to Date 1979
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	47	45	47	45
MINING	37	16	37	16
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	67	72	67	72
MANUFACTURING	34	28	34	28
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	19	27	19	27
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	151	126	151	126
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	54	60	54	60
SERVICES	177	157	177	157
NON-PROFIT SERVICES	(40)	(19)	(40)	(19)
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	16	3	16	3
STATE TOTAL	602	534	602	534

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Jan 1980	Jan 1979	Year to Date 1980	1979
STATE OF MONTANA	602	534	602	534
GREAT FALLS SMSA	43	30	43	30
BILLINGS SMSA	80	99	80	99
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS MULTI-COUNTY	46	(INA)	46	(INA)
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	35	33	35	33
Beaverhead	11	3	11	3
Deer Lodge	1	3	1	3
Granite	3	5	3	5
Madison	5	6	5	6
Powell	2	1	2	1
Silver Bow	13	15	13	15
BOZEMAN LMA	39	36	39	36
Gallatin	26	24	26	24
Meagher	2	1	2	1
Park	11	11	11	11
GLASGOW LMA	19	28	19	28
Daniels	1	1	1	1
Phillips	3	6	3	6
Roosevelt	6	7	6	7
Sheridan	4	4	4	4
Valley	5	10	5	10
GLENDIVE LMA	37	26	37	26
Dawson	13	5	13	5
Garfield	1	1	1	1
McCone	4	1	4	1
Prairie	3	3	3	3
Richland	16	5	16	5
Wibaux	0	1	0	1
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	16	16	16	16
Big Horn	4	2	4	2
Carbon	4	8	4	8
Stillwater	5	2	5	2
Sweet Grass	3	4	3	4

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Jan 1980	Jan 1979	Year to Date 1980	1979
HAVRE LMA	12	14	12	14
Blaine	4	1	4	1
Hill	8	13	8	13
Liberty	0	0	0	0
HELENA LMA	42	57	42	57
Broadwater	1	1	1	1
Jefferson	4	6	4	6
Lewis and Clark	37	50	37	50
KALISPELL LMA	86	56	86	56
Flathead	60	43	60	43
Lake	13	6	13	6
Lincoln	13	7	13	7
LEWISTOWN LMA	10	8	10	8
Fergus	5	4	5	4
Golden Valley	0	0	0	0
Judith Basin	1	3	1	3
Musselshell	4	1	4	1
Petroleum	0	0	0	0
Wheatland	0	0	0	0
MILES CITY LMA	20	13	20	13
Carter	0	0	0	0
Custer	3	7	3	7
Fallon	7	2	7	2
Powder River	3	0	3	0
Rosebud	7	3	7	3
Treasure	0	1	0	1
MISSOULA LMA	77	104	77	104
Mineral	2	1	2	1
Missoula	59	76	59	76
Ravalli	12	21	12	21
Sanders	4	6	4	6
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	40	14	40	14
Choteau	6	2	6	2
Glacier	14	5	14	5
Pondera	7	3	7	3
Teton	1	2	1	2
Toole	12	2	12	2

Sources of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.